

WATER QUALITY REPORT

FOR BLOOMINGTON, MN • 2008 TEST RESULTS



JUNE 2009

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ENSURING YOUR SAFETY

BLOOMINGTON'S WATER SURPASSED ALL REQUIREMENTS

AT THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, our goal is to provide you with high-quality, safe, reliable drinking water that meets every federal and state water quality requirement. This report contains information about the sources, treatment process and history of our water system. The page four summary provides the results of water quality monitoring on Bloomington's water sources from January 1 to December 31, 2008, by the Minnesota Department of Health, the city of Minneapolis and our own laboratories. We also answer the most common questions that people have about our water. This report is meant to advance your understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

GET INVOLVED

YOUR WATER MEETS all federal, state and local guidelines. Public Works welcomes your input on water quality issues. For information, contact Water Quality Supervisor Jon Eaton at 952-563-4501.

If you have questions about your water or need assistance, please give us a call or visit the City's website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Water Plant.

Water Plant (24 hours a day)
952-563-4905
TTY (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., M-F)
952-563-8740

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Si necesita una traducción del mismo, sírvase llamar al 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

Bản báo cáo này có các thông tin rất quan trọng. Nếu quý vị cần bản dịch tiếng Việt, xin gọi số 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

Warbixintaan waxaa ku jira macluumaad aad muhiim u ah. Haddii aad u baahan tahay in laguu turjumo, fadlan la xiriir 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

DRINKING WATER BASICS

BOTTLED WATER VS. TAP WATER: KNOW THE FACTS

AMERICANS SPEND BILLIONS of dollars each year to buy bottled water. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), bottled water is the fastest growing drink in the United States. Some people drink it as an alternative to other beverages; others prefer its taste or think it is safer than their tap water. Whether it travels through a pipe to your home or comes packaged in a bottle, safe drinking water is essential to good health.

Drinking water (both bottled and tap) contains small amounts of some contaminants. Their presence does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Minerals such as magnesium and calcium give water a distinctive flavor and are essential to the body. However, at high levels, these and other contaminants such as pesticides or microbes from human wastes can cause adverse effects or illness.

To make sure that all water is safe to drink, the EPA and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) set drinking water standards. The EPA sets standards for tap water provided by public water suppliers. The FDA sets standards for bottled water based on the EPA's standards. Bottled and tap water are both safe to drink if they meet these standards, although people with severely weakened immune

systems or other health conditions may wish to filter their water.

The FDA regulates bottled water as a packaged food under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. The FDA has also established good manufacturing practice requirements for processing and bottling drinking water.

COST

Bottled water is much more expensive than tap water. See right.

TASTE

One of the key taste differences between tap and bottled water is how the water is disinfected. Tap water may be disinfected with chlorine, chloramine, ozone or ultraviolet light to kill disease-causing germs. Water systems use chlorine and chloramine because they are effective and inexpensive and they continue to disinfect as water travels through pipes to homes and businesses. Bottled water is typically disinfected using ozone or other technologies such as ultraviolet light or chlorine dioxide. Ozone is preferred by bottlers, though it is more expensive, because it does not leave a taste and bottlers do not need to maintain disinfectant in the container. Untreated water, whether from a bottle or a tap, will have the characteristic taste of its source.



Cost per serving

Product	240ml*	Source
Bloomington tap water	\$0.0001	Public supply
PUR Fm-8100 **	\$0.0168	Public supply
Brita Slim **	\$0.0186	Public supply
Glenwood	\$0.0476	Spring
Kandiyohi	\$0.0545	Distilled
Ice Mountain	\$0.1496	Spring
Aquafina	\$0.1691	Public supply
Dasani	\$0.2632	Public supply
Glaceau Smart Water	\$0.3808	Distilled
Fiji Artesian Water	\$0.4200	Artesian
Evian	\$0.4752	Spring
Perrier	\$0.4776	Spring

* Approximately 8 oz.

** Point-of-use filters used to treat drinking water at consumption to improve taste.

BLOOMINGTON WATER

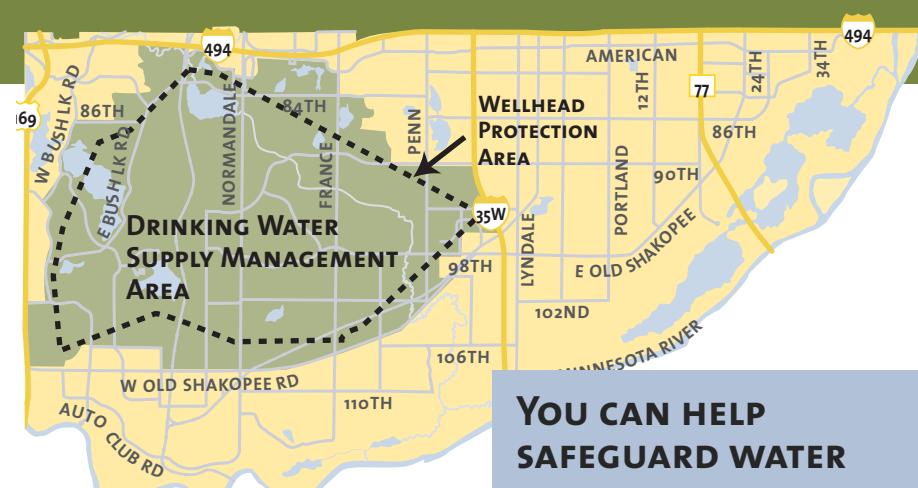
To learn more about the quality of Bloomington's tap water, read this *Water Quality Report*. If your water comes from a household well, the City recommends testing it regularly for bacteria, nitrates and other contaminants.

WELLHEAD PROTECTION OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY WELLS

EVERYONE BENEFITS!

WELLHEAD PROTECTION prevents contaminants from entering the area that contributes water to the public water supply well or well field. These areas are determined by geologic and hydrologic criteria, such as the physical characteristics of the aquifer and the effects that pumping has on the rate and direction of groundwater movement. A management plan is developed for the wellhead protection area that identifies potential sources of groundwater contamination, monitors for the presence of specific contaminants, and manages existing and future land and water uses that pose a threat to groundwater quality.

The Minnesota Groundwater Protection Act of 1989 granted the Commissioner of Health authority to develop wellhead protection measures for wells serving public water supplies; *this rule does not apply to private wells*. This action was in response to the 1986 amendment to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act in which states are required to implement wellhead protection



programs for public water supply wells. Minnesota Rules, parts 4720.5100 to 4720.5590, constitute the Minnesota Wellhead Protection Program.

While a wellhead protection plan gives owners of public water supply wells a useful "tool" for providing a safe drinking water supply to their customers, the long-term goals are beneficial to all residents of Minnesota. These goals:

- Reduce the use of costly treatment facilities.
- Avoid the need to drill new wells.
- Avoid the need to clean up contaminated groundwater.

If you would like more information about wellhead protection, contact

YOU CAN HELP SAFEGUARD WATER

It is important to manage all sources of pollution on your property. Street litter, motor oil, antifreeze, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, yard and pet waste and paint are pollutants that find a way into the drinking water source.

Questions on proper disposal can be directed to Hennepin County at 612-348-3777.



Glen Gerads at 952-563-8775 or the Minnesota Department of Health Source Water Protection Unit at 651-201-4700.